

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02388 181641Z

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6231

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US UR

SUBJECT: SADAT'S MEETING WITH ASSEMBLY AND ASU, APRIL 18

1. IN JOINT SESSION WITH PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS "OCTOBER PAPER", SADAT DELIVERED ADDRESS THE FINAL PART OF WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH USSR AND US. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF THESE REMARKS.

2. SOVIET UNION. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD PROMISED (ON APRIL 16) TO DEAL WITH SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. THIS, HE SAID, WAS DONE AS A FRIEND, BUT EVEN AMONG FRIENDS MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD DEVELOP. HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THESE HAD OCCURRED, AND CERTAINLY EGYPT WAS WORKING TO MAINTAIN THE FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IT AND THE USSR. HE REGRETTED THE MATTER. SOME OF EGYPT'S DEMANDS HAS NOT BEEN MET; BUT THEY WERE VITAL. SADAT SAID HE HAD SENT FOUR MESSAGES TO BREZHNEV IN PAST SIX MONTHS, BUT ONLY RECEIVED TWO IN RETURN. THE LAST OF THESE, GIVEN TO HIM BY GROMYKO, SAID THAT EGYPT'S DEMANDS WERE UNDER STUDY, ALTHOUGH, SADAT SAID, THEY ARE NOT EXTRAORDINARY. SADAT REFERRED TO

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02388 181641Z

CRITICAL STATEMENTS (BY SOVIETS)

THAT EGYPT HAD DEPARTED FROM SOCIALISM BUT, HE SAID, EGYPT HAD CHOSEN SOCIALISM BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT TO PLEASE ANYONE; IT ACTED OF ITS OWN FREE WILL. EGYPT, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT INITIATE ANTAGONISM TOWARD ANOTHER, BUT WOULD REPLY TO SUCH IF IT WAS DIRECTED AT HER. SADAT SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN A DECISION REGARDING ARMED FORCES TO DIVERSIFY THEIR SOURCES OF ARMS--A DECISION WHICH HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED (HERE HE WAS GREETED BY LOUD APPLAUSE). HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO SIT WITH SOVIETS TO CLEAR THE ATMOSPHERE: "I HOPE" HE SAID, "THEY UNDERSTAND BETTER THE LESSON OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS". HE CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD NOT BEFRIEND THE USSR AT THE EXPENSE OF THE US NOR WOULD HE BEFRIEND THE US AT SOVIET EXPENSE.

3. SADAT TURNED TO US. HE SAID THAT US POSTURE HAD CHANGED. THIS HAD OCCURRED DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO ASWAN, WHEN SECRETARY HAD MADE OFFERS TO BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL. IT WAS THE FIRST SUCH CHANGE SINCE DULLES AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON, WHOSE ERA SADAT DESCRIBED AS THE "BLACKEST" IN THE HISTORY OF BOTH EGYPT AND THE US. SADAT SAID THAT THIS CHANGE HAD MOVED THE US AWAY FROM ITS POSITION OF 100 PERCENT SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, AND THIS HAD PROMPTED HIM TO TAKE STEPS TO RESUME AND DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH US.

4. EARLIER IN REMARKS, PRESIDENT SAID "SOME" HAVE DESCRIBED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS "SECRET", BUT EGYPT HAS NOTHING TO HIDE. THERE ARE NO OTHER AGREEMENTS EXCEPT USG PROPOSAL, ACCEPTED BY GOE AND GOI, THAT TWO LINES BE DRAWN EAST OF CANAL WITHIN WHICH EACH SIDE COULD PLACE MAXIMUM OF 7000 SOLDIERS.

5. REMAINDER OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO RECOUNTING OF EVENTS OF OCTOBER WAR, DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENT THAT EGYPT HAS ENTERED NEW STAGE AND NOW HAS DUAL PURPOSE: TO WIN THE "BATTLE" TO END OCCUPATION, AND ALSO TO BEGIN RECONSTRUCTION WHICH PEOPLE DESERVE AFTER SIX YEARS OF GLOOM AND DARKNESS.

6. COMMENT: SADAT'S REMARKS ABOUT USSR SUGGEST THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO TEMPER HIS RECENT ANTI-SOVIET CRITICISM, BUT KEEP THE WARNING SIGNALS OUT.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 02388 181641Z

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